



CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 29 FEBRUARY 1996

ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES FEBRUARY 1996

MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2 797 300 in January 1996, a fall of 0.4% on the previous month. Nationally, there was a fall of 0.3% in employment over the same period. Both State and national employment figures in January 1996 were 2.9% higher than a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 239 100 in January 1996, an increase of 10.2% on the previous month and a fall of 7.1% over the previous year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January 1996 was 7.9% in NSW and 8.6% nationally.

BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in December 1995 was 3 379, an increase of 1.5% on the previous month.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

The seasonally adjusted figure for new motor vehicle registrations in NSW increased by 12.6% from 16 395 in November 1995 to 18 469 in December 1995.

FINANCE

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in December 1995 fell by 21.8% from the previous month and was 4.6% lower than in December 1994.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Private new capital expenditure in September quarter 1995 for NSW on buildings and structures increased 18.3% over the previous quarter, while expenditure on equipment declined by 20.7%. There is almost no movement in either category when compared with data for the September quarter of the previous year.

NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0). A *Release Advice* (1105.0) is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays which lists publications to be released in the next few days. These publications are available from any ABS office.

Gregory W. Bray
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

INQUIRIES:

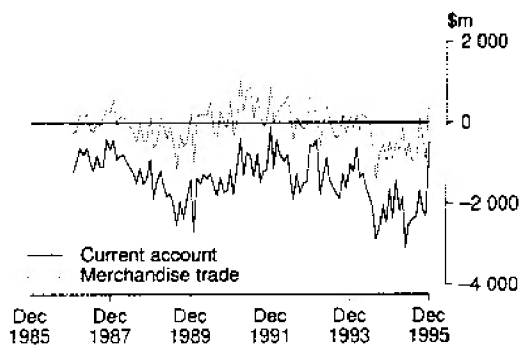
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 268 4376 or any ABS office.
 - for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Sydney (02) 268 4611 or any ABS office.
-

1

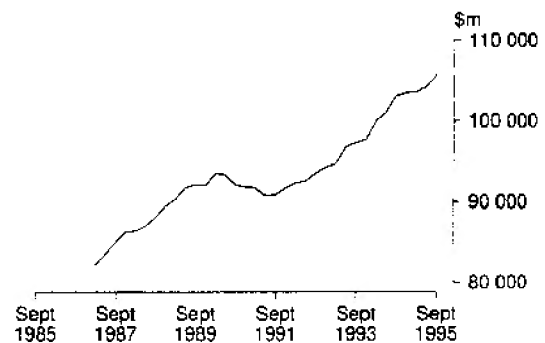
NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
National Accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—							
Gross non-farm product	%	Sept. qtr 95	0.9	2.3			
Gross domestic product	%	Sept. qtr 95	1.4	2.6			
Figures for preceding periods							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
Balance of payments—							
Merchandise exports	\$m	Dec. 95	6 762	5 933	6 247	6 233	5 493
Merchandise imports	\$m	Dec. 95	-5 947	-6 838	-6 702	-6 119	-5 925
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	Dec. 95	815	-905	-455	114	-432
Balance on goods and services	\$m	Dec. 95	839	-878	-587	-281	-376
Balance on current account	\$m	Dec. 95	-457	-2 288	-2 107	-1 682	-1 649
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Dec. 95	-1 628	-1 858	-1 683	-1 440	-2 351
Terms of trade for goods and services—							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100		Sept. qtr 95	94.2	93.2	92.4	91.5	89.2
Exchange Rates at end of period—							
\$US/\$A		Dec. 95	0.7450	0.7469	0.7566	0.7550	0.7768
Trade weighted index of value \$A May 1970 = 100		Dec. 95	53.9	53.8	54.3	53.8	56.2
Interest Rates—							
Prime rate (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Jan. 96	10.75	10.65-10.75	10.65-10.75	10.65-10.75	10.65-10.75

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AUSTRALIA (Monthly)



GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)

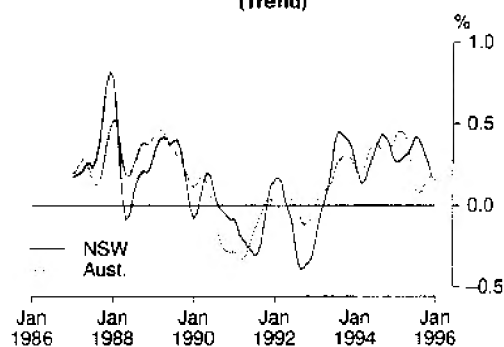


2

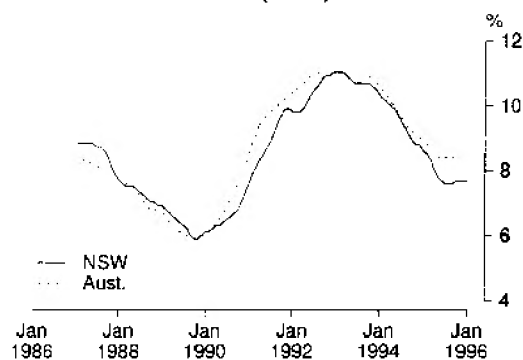
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Jan. 96	7.9	8.7	9.5	9.5	8.0	9.9	8.6
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	Jan. 96	2.9	4.3	3.2	1.7	0.3	2.0	2.9
Consumer price index: all groups	Dec. qtr 95	5.8	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	5.1
Average weekly employee earnings:								
full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Aug. 95	6.5	4.3	4.7	2.6	6.1	2.0	5.1
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Dec. 95	10.3	5.7	5.6	10.3	8.9	5.0	8.0
New motor vehicle registrations	Dec. 95	-4.8	-3.7	-12.6	1.8	0.6	27.2	-4.0
Dwelling units approved	Dec. 95	-30.5	-27.8	-31.1	-37.8	-46.4	-3.9	-31.8
Value of non-residential building approved	Dec. 95	-7.7	93.4	25.6	-0.3	2.0	-50.3	17.7
Value of all buildings approved	Dec. 95	-19.1	-6.2	-11.0	-20.9	-24.7	-27.3	-14.3
Value of engineering construction work done	Sept. qtr 95	30.9	-7.4	-7.0	-9.6	49.8	19.0	11.1
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Sept. qtr 95	5.2	8.7	-2.3	3.3	1.2	-3.2	2.6
Actual private new capital expenditure	June qtr 95	10.4	20.0	33.6	24.2	13.5	9.7	15.3

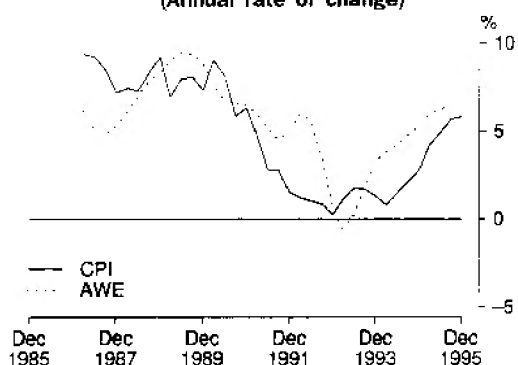
**MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
(Trend)**



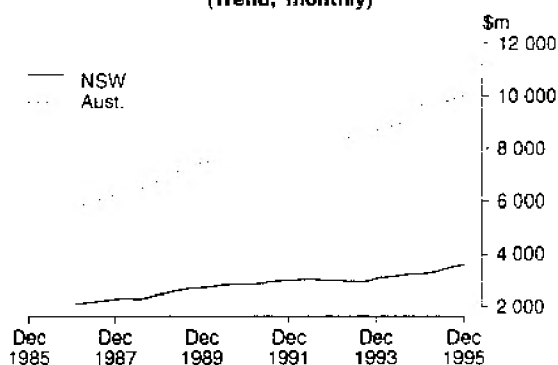
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Trend)**



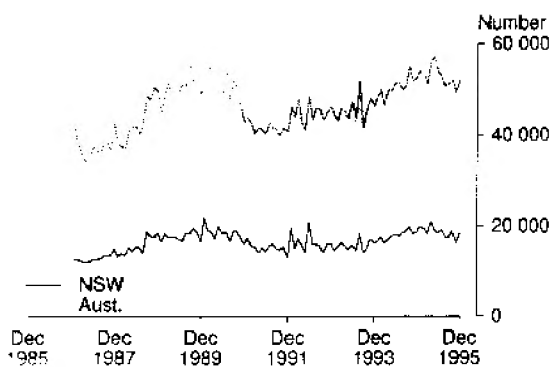
**PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW
(Annual rate of change)**



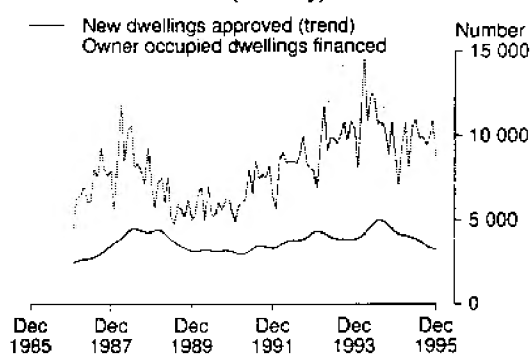
**RETAIL TURNOVER
(Trend, monthly)**



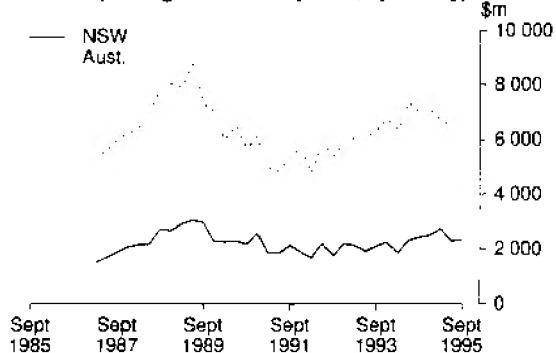
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED
(Monthly)**



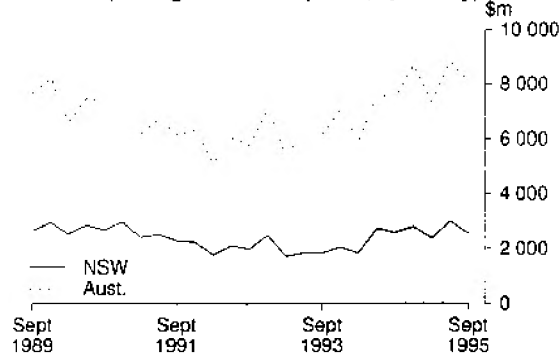
**NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND
HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW
(Monthly)**



**VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales			Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year
				%	%		%	%
Population								
Estimated resident population	'000s	June qtr 95	6 115	0.29	1.09	18 054	0.30	1.21
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000s	Jan. 96	4 832	0.13	1.24	14 242	0.14	1.46
Labour Force								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000s	Jan. 96	2 162	-1.0	4.1	6 275	-1.6	3.2
—total (original series)	'000s	Jan. 96	2 747	-3.0	2.9	8 185	-2.9	2.9
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Jan. 96	2 797	-0.4	2.9	8 317	-0.3	2.9
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000s	Jan. 96	255	12.9	-7.1	832	11.1	-2.6
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Jan. 96	239	10.2	-7.1	778	6.4	-2.6
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Jan. 96	3 036	0.3	2.0	9 095	0.2	2.4
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Jan. 96	62.8	0.2	0.7	63.9	0.1	0.9
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Jan. 96	7.9	9.8	-9.0	8.6	6.1	-4.9
Job vacancies	'000s	Nov. 95	25	-20.6	-13.2	56	-9.6	-15.1
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Nov. 95	7.0	0.7	-5.9	6.9	1.4	-8.1
Average Weekly Employee Earnings								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Aug. 95	686.00	1.8	6.5	654.20	1.3	5.1
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Aug. 95	579.20	0.9	3.7	551.30	0.6	2.4
Industrial Disputes—Working days lost	'000s	Oct. 95	6.7	-2.9	-34.3	79.6	98.5	62.1
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100		Dec. qtr 95	118.3	0.9	5.8	118.5	0.8	5.1
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Dec. 95	3 592	0.6	10.3	10 033	0.3	8.0
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Dec. 95	18 469	12.6	-0.9	52 123	5.7	-1.1
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Dec. 95	15 676	12.8	-0.4	43 744	5.2	0.9
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	Dec. 95	2 793	11.9	-3.5	8 379	8.5	-10.7
Production								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Dec. 95	55.1	4.6	-13.8	117	-4.4	-27.8
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Dec. 95	5 335	1.5	4.9	13 781	0.1	-1.0
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Dec. 95	8 326	-1.6	-2.1	52 709	4.6	-0.3
Overseas Trade								
Imports	\$m	Jan. 96	2 970	6.5	16.4	6 555	6.5	7.5
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Dec. 95	1 372	5.8	8.9	6 413	12.9	21.3
Tourism								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000s	Nov. 95	146	1.2	11.1	343	6.9	10.3
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000s	Nov. 95	84	10.0	13.3	201	3.7	15.2
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000s	Sept. qtr 95	6 652	12.2	5.1	16 280	11.6	3.0
Room occupancy rate	%	Sept. qtr 95	60.2	6.4	5.2	59.9	6.8	2.6
Building								
Approvals—								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Dec. 95	3 379	1.5	-28.7	10 342	-0.4	-28.4
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	Dec. 95	339	-9.4	-27.1	980	-4.3	-27.8
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Dec. 95	220	-29.1	-7.7	659	-25.9	17.7
Value of all building	\$m	Dec. 95	590	-27.3	-19.1	1 667	-23.7	-14.3
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Sept. qtr 95	10 876	-10.6	-26.2	33 296	-7.8	-32.5
Value of new residential buildings (d)	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	1 084	-10.0	-25.4	3 002	-10.6	-31.4
Value of non-residential building (d)	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	1 019	21.2	44.6	2 546	-1.0	28.2
Value of all building (d)	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	2 344	2.6	-4.0	6 090	-6.1	-12.4
Value of work done in period (d)	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	2 559	1.0	10.2	6 911	—	-2.4
Engineering Construction								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	539	26.5	-11.4	2 001	26.0	11.8
Value of work done	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	767	33.1	43.3	1 879	10.2	8.9
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	1 248	-11.7	27.2	3 524	-3.1	18.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	514	-38.1	15.9	1 433	-29.1	14.2
Finance								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured								
commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Dec. 95	1 207	-21.8	-4.6	3 462	-18.0	-6.1
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Nov. 95	1 008	2.2	27.0	3 024	7.9	27.5
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Nov. 95	4 588	2.1	6.3	10 390	8.8	15.1
Savings balances at end of month—								
All banks (e) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Dec. 95	124 480	1.4	(f)	278 658	9.8	2.3
Building societies	\$m	Dec. 95	3 591	1.0	10.8	11 316	0.6	-3.5
Credit unions	\$m	Dec. 95	5 884	0.5	17.6	13 250	0.4	16.0
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (g)	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	2 726	-14.5	-0.2	8 614	-8.3	9.1
New buildings and structures	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	600	18.3	-0.7	2 477	8.4	29.8
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Sept. qtr 95	2 126	-20.7	-0.1	6 137	-13.6	2.5

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Not available for publication but included in totals where applicable. (d) Average of 1989-90 prices. (e) Average of weekly deposit balances. (f) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (g) By private enterprises.

